GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1447
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2003
FUNCTIONING OF ARMY CANTONMENT BOARDS IN CONGESTED URBAN AGGLOMERATIONS
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Army Cantonment Boards are still functioning in congested urban agglomerations and major municipal corporation/board areas;

(b) whether the Government feels that the prevailing system of separate cantonment has outlived its utility and the governance thereof undemocratic;

(c) whether the Government would consider abolishing/converting cantonment boards and merge the same with local municipal corporations/bodies which are democratically elected; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (c): There are 62 Cantonments in the country. The Cantonment Boards consist of elected and nominated members. The Cantonment Boards were formed under the provision of the Cantonments Act, 1924, for specific municipal duties with a view to ensuring better health and sanitation to the troops in the Cantonments. The Cantonments are less congested then the neighbouring municipal bodies.

There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to abolish/convert the Cantonments or to merge the same with neighbouring municipal corporation/local bodies.

(d) Does not arise.